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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/084,045	02/22/2002	Bernadino J. Payone	65,160-040	8427
25006	7590	03/10/2005	EXAMINER	
GIFFORD, KRASS, GROH, SPRINKLE & CITKOWSKI, P.C			CHARLES, DEBRA F	
PO BOX 7021			ART UNIT	
TROY, MI 48007-7021			PAPER NUMBER	
			3624	

DATE MAILED: 03/10/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/084,045

Applicant(s)

PAYONE, BERNADINO J.

Examiner

Debra F. Charles

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 February 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

1. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the bodies of the claims do not recite technology, i.e. computer implementation or any other technology in a non-trivial manner. *In re Toma*, 197 USPQ 852 (CCPA 1978). *Ex parte Bowman* 61 USPQ2D 1669.

For a claim to be statutory under 35 USC 101 the following two conditions must be met:

1) The claimed invention must produce a “useful, concrete, tangible result” (*In re Alappat*, 31USPQ2d 1545, 1558 (Fed. Cir. 1994) and *State Street vs. Financial Signature Group Inc.*, 47 USPQ2d 1596’ 1601-02 (Fed Cir. 1998));

AND

2) The claimed invention must utilize technology in a non-trivial manner (*Ex parte Bowman*, 61 USPQ2d 1665, 1671 (Bd. Pat. Pat. App. & Inter. 2001)).

As to the technology requirement, note MPEP 2106 IV B 2(b). Also note *In re Waldbaum*, 173USPQ 430 (CCPA 1972) which teaches “useful arts” is synonymous with “technological arts”. In *Musgrave*, 167USPQ 280 (CCPA 1970), *In re Johnston*, 183USPQ 172 (CCPA 1974), and *In re Toma*, 197USPQ 852 (CCPA 1978), all teach a technological requirement.

In *State Street*, “in the technological arts” was never an issue. The invention in the body of the claim must recite technology. If the invention in the body of the claim is not tied to technological art, environment, or machine, the claim is not statutory. *Ex parte Bowman* 61USPQ2d 1665,1671 (BD. Pat. App. & Inter.2001)(Unpublished).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

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2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35

U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite in that it fails to point out what is included or excluded by the claim language. This claim is an omnibus type claim. The terms "causing" and "providing" are consistent with standard claim usage, please use standard claim structure as found in the references Elloitt and Wong et al.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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5. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Credit Risk Management Report, "Disclosure Policies Set for Credit Counselors FTC Cracks Down on Credit Repair Scams"(herein known as Credit Risk Management) and Business Week, A Debt Trap for the Unwary"(herein known as BusinessWeek).

Re claims 1, 4-7: Credit Risk Management discloses a method of using non-exempt organizations in the provision of credit repair services comprising the steps of(first three paragraphs):

providing a non-exempt organization that has the capacity to deliver goods and/or provide services that are or may be useful in rendering credit repair services(paragraph 3-14);

Credit Risk Management disclose(s) the claimed invention except providing an exempt organization that performs, or will perform, credit repair; providing in such agreement that the non-exempt organization shall perform services related to credit repair, causing the exempt organization to enter into an agreement with the non-exempt organization; providing further in such agreement for payment by the exempt organization to the non-exempt organization before the credit

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repair services rendered by the exempt organization are fully performed; causing the non-exempt organization to provide said services related to credit repair to the exempt organization; and causing the exempt organization to pay the non-exempt organization under said agreement before all of said related credit repair services are fully rendered. However, in the full text thereof, BusinessWeek disclose(s) agreements between non-exempt and exempt organizations to provide credit repair services. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention of Credit Risk Management based on the teachings of BusinessWeek. The motivation to combine these references is to effectively provide credit repair services..

6. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Credit Risk Management and BusinessWeek as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Elloit(2001/0042034A1).

Re claim 2: Credit Risk Management and BusinessWeek disclose the invention except the services related to credit repair is a license to use intellectual property rights. However, in the Abstract, paras. 0012-0019, thereof, Elloit disclose securitizing intellectual property rights that effectively converts them into cash. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention of Credit Risk Management and BusinessWeek based on the teachings of Elloit. The motivation to combine these references is to effectively provide credit repair services that function through liquidating assets.

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Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Credit Risk Management and BusinessWeek as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Wong et al.(6119933A).

Re claim 3: Credit Risk Management and BusinessWeek disclose the invention except wherein the services related to credit repair include identifying potential clients for credit repair services. However, in the Abstract, col. 1, line 10-col. 2, line 25, Wong et al. disclose identifying clients for the purpose of selling them some services. It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention of Credit Risk Management and BusinessWeek based on the teachings of Wong et al. The motivation to combine these references is to effectively provide credit repair services that function through liquidating assets.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Debra F. Charles whose telephone number is (703) 305-4718. The examiner can normally be reached on 9-5 Monday thru Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vincent A. Millin can be reached on (703) 308-1065. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Debra F. Charles
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